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14 January 1949

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
ATTENTION: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Monitoring Station at Sasebo, Japan

1. Worldwide broadcast monitoring requires a listening post in the western Pacific on or near the Asiatic mainland; wartime experience proved that location on Guam does not significantly improve the inadequate coverage now obtainable in Hawaii.

2. Early in 1947 monitoring sites in Japan and the Philippines were tested for suitability. The Ishidake property at Sasebo in Japan yielded the best results, and fully meets the requirements for such a station.

3. Due to the uncertain duration of military occupation of Japan, however, further tests were made on Okinawa. Some technical advantages in locating on Okinawa were indicated but such advantages are outweighed by staffing difficulties and doubled costs of construction as compared to Japan.

4. It is now believed in the best interests of the CIA monitoring operation to locate its Far East station at Sasebo, provided that reasonable assurance of tenure of ten years or more can be obtained, without regard to the duration of the military occupation. Chief requirements for post-treaty tenure are the following:

a. Undisturbed occupation of the Ishidake property, consisting of approximately 15 acres and the erection of antennae and buildings for operations and staff housing thereon, and easements on adjacent fields permitting erection of poles for extended antennae.

b. Occupation of a separate nearby site of approximately 5 acres containing radio-teletype transmitter and antennae.

c. Unrestricted movement of equipment and American personnel and undisturbed communication by radio-teletype, cable and mail between this station and the United States.

d. Privileges equivalent to those accorded other representatives of United States Government departments or agencies located in Japan, and the option of employing local residents solely on the basis of operational requirements.

e. Establishment of radio-teletype circuits between station and Army communications network relay point, and provision for transmission of classified material by pouch.

5. It is recommended that assurance of ten-year tenure under these conditions be sought from competent authority; and if such assurance is obtained, that CIA proceed with the establishment of the proposed station without delay.

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Brigadier General, 00100100
 Assistant Director for Operations

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